



Dean of Students

Case-Law Memorandum

During the week of September 24-28, 2012, the following memorandum was address during Dean of Students staff meetings and it was distributed electronically to Dean of Students employees.

Fellow Administrators:

In researching a question today, I learned of an important change in the law in the wake of the Penn State scandal. The Virginia General Assembly revised the law and **every employee of a public or private institution of higher education** who, in their employment capacity, has reason to **suspect** that a child (under 18) is an abused or neglected child, has an immediate duty to report the suspected abuse or neglect to the local city or county department where the child resides **or** where the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred **or** to the Virginia Department of Social Services hotline (1 800 552-7096) as soon as possible (but no longer than 24 hours) after having reason to suspect child abuse or neglect. If a mandatory reporter has actual knowledge that the same matter has already been reported, he or she is relieved of the duty to report. If the reporting person is someone in the organization other than the person(s) who first came to suspect abuse, the reporting person must communicate to the non-reporting employee(s) when the report was made, who received the report and any communications resulting from the report. Failure to make the report required by the law has a fine of up to \$500 for the first offense and not less than \$1,000 for the second failure to report. If the child abuse involves rape, sodomy or object sexual penetration, the person who fails to make a mandatory report is guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor. These changes in the law were effective July 1, 2012.

LU regularly deals with many minors, not just in camp situations, but as 17 year old students and prospective students. I recommend that the University develop a way to let its employees know of their new obligations.

In His service,

David M. Corry
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